(e) In order to impart greater liquidity and safety to the investment of RNBCs, the investment pattern has been rationalised. RBI has issued fresh instructions on improvements in the functioning of RNBCs including transparency of operations, connected lending relationship, corporate governance standards, avoiding untenable rates of commission to agents, adherence to "Know Your Customer" norms, etc.

Information of irregularities in banks to RBI

†2651. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has taken serious view on the cases of fraud, taking loans through unfair means, embezzlement and other various types of rackets in the banks and have issued guidelines to the banks to timely inform the RBI about such cases, prevent delay in reporting as well as laxity in the investigation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the banks as on date which are complying or not complying with the guidelines issued by the RBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As per RBI guidelines, banks are required to report all fraud cases involving Rs. 1 lakh and above but below Rs. 1 crore to Regional Offices of the Department of Banking Supervision, RBI under whose jurisdiction the Head Office of the concerned bank falls. Frauds involving Rs. 1 crore and above are required to be reported to the Central Office of RBI. Banks have been advised by RBI to file complaints with the police/CBI as applicable, examine staff accountability, initiate steps to recover the amount of loss, strengthen the systems and procedures to avoid recurrence of such frauds. RBI also advises banks from time to time about major fraud prone areas and the safeguards necessary for prevention of frauds. Banks are also advised by RBI, in confidence, names of unscrupulous borrowers and related parties who have perpetrated frauds in any bank along with modus operandi to enable them to exercise caution, introduce necessary safeguards by way of appropriate procedures and internal checks and make in-depth enquiries before granting/renewing any facility to them. As delay in reporting frauds and consequent delay in alerting Banks about the modus operandi and issue of caution advices against unscrupulous borrowers could result in similar

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

frauds being perpetrated elsewhere, banks have been advised to report frauds within 21 days of their occurrence to RBI. Large value frauds involving Rs. 1 crore and above are required to be reported within a week of such fraud coming to the notice of the bank. To streamline and facilitate quick reporting and follow up of frauds, RBI has introduced a computerized 'Frauds Reporting and Monitoring System' linking all banks with RBI.

(c) The compliance with the time schedule for submission of reports on frauds by banks is monitored by RBI. Generally all the banks are adhering to the reporting systems and the guidelines issued from time to time.

Increase in tax payers

†2652. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of tax payers in the country has increased during the last few years;

(b) if so, the number thereof during the last three years;

(c) the estimated number of tax payers during the current year;

(d) whether it is also a fact that outstanding tax amount against these tax payers is increasing constantly; and

(e) if so, the details thereof during last three years and the estimated outstanding amount of tax for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of assessees for the last three years is as under:

Financial year ending	Number of assessees (in Crores)
31st March, 2004	3.02
31st March, 2005	3.08
31st March, 2006	3.15

(c) According to statistics maintained by Income Tax Department, the number of Income-tax assessees as on 30th June, 2006 is 2.99 crores.

(d) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.